

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On Page 1, lines 6-10, please replace the first paragraph and substitute the following amended paragraph:

~~The present invention~~ This application is a national stage filing of International Application No. PCT/US2004/024232, filed on July 28, 2004, which claims priority benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of the earlier filing date of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/490,969, filed July 29, 2003, entitled "Method for Application of a Thermal Barrier Coating and Resultant Structure thereof," the entire disclosures of which ~~is~~are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.